

# Education for Every Child

**W**e have pledged to hold ourselves accountable to educate every single child in reading and math by the year 2014," said Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, explaining America's "No Child Left Behind" law during her visit to India in April.

The United States and India share a belief in the power of education as fundamental to democracy, economic and civic development, Secretary Spellings said in an April 13 speech to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the American Chamber of Commerce. "We face the shared belief, and the shared challenge, that ensuring every single

child a quality education is critical to our future."

Accompanying a congressional delegation headed by Senator Michael B. Enzi of Wyoming, Secretary Spellings visited a computer kiosk project that allows street children and working children in six slum clusters in New Delhi to learn how to use Windows programs, load and save files, run educational software, browse the Internet, and use e-mail in an informal learning atmosphere with minimum adult supervision. The project, called Hole in the Wall, is sponsored by the American Embassy School, the American Women's Association, the National Institute of Information Technology and the voluntary development group Disha.

"In my country we face what we call an 'achievement gap' between those who have access to a high quality edu-

cation and those who don't," Secretary Spellings said. Under the "No Child Left Behind" law, which she helped draft as an assistant to President George W. Bush, the Secretary said, "We are going to...measure every single student every year in reading and math, and to look carefully at that data, to hold ourselves accountable for the performance of every single child and every single group of students." For too long, she said, "we denied the underachievement of our neediest students by averaging scores for all students together. Now we are holding ourselves accountable for the achievement of everyone. When schools fall short of these standards, we give parents options to transfer to better schools, or to get extra help for their students through tutoring or after-school programs." —L.K.L.

*Senator Michael B. Enzi and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings visit the American Embassy School's computer learning program for slum children in New Delhi on April 13.*



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**W**hen leaving for the United States always keep handy the contact information of the university's International Student Office (the office that issued your I-20). In case of any immigration problems they



are the ones who should be contacted pronto. In fact, your university's International Student Office is the office that helps you with all the initial paper work, settling down, campus information and, very importantly, the acculturation process. The best way to find out about any university is to interact with students enrolled there. Every decent-sized university has an Indian student organization. Just try to find it using the university Web site and search engines like Google

(<http://www.google.com/options/universities.html>). Try and contact the board members of the organization using the e-mail IDs listed there. Also do not bring any electronic items from India as those in the United States work on a totally different voltage (110V). Whatever food items you bring along, make sure the ingredients are clearly marked or Customs officers will not allow them.